

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02 HEW-04 AF-08
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TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, SHUM

SUBJ: WEO CANDIDATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: (A) USUN 135; (B) USUN 146; (C) GENEVA 428

1. SUMMARY: IT IS LIKELY THAT THE WEO GROUP WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AGREE ON A SLATE FOR THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AND THIS RAISES THE DANGER THAT THE U. S. MAY FAIL IN ITS BID TO BE RE-ELECTED. MIS-SION DOUBTS THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN. NEVERTHELESS, WE BE-LIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FROM ECOSOC MEMBERS. ALSO, OUR POSTURE AT THE FORTHCOMING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SESSION MAY HAVE A BEARING ON THE FINAL OUTCOME. END SUMMARY.

2. ONE ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE 62ND ECOSOC (APRIL 13-MAY 13) WILL BE ELECTIONS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THREE WEO POSITIONS ARE TO BE FILLED. AS OF NOW THERE ARE SEVEN WEO CANDIDATES (FRANCE, FRG, PORTUGAL, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS, AUSTRALIA, THE U. S.). IF THE WEO GROUP IS UNABLE TO AGREE ON A SLATE OF THREE CANDIDATES, THE SELECTION WILL BE MADE BY SECRET BALLOT IN ECOSOC.

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3. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE WEO GROUP WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON A SLATE LAST YEAR. IN THE ENSUING ELECTIONS FRANCE FAILED IN ITS BID, THE FIRST TIME A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN DENIED A POSITION IT SOUGHT ON A SUBSIDIARY BODY. WE REPORTED EXTENSIVELY AT THAT TIME ON OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE FRENCH

DEFEAT AND ON OUR CONCERN THAT THIS MIGHT ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT AND THUS ENDANGER OUR "RIGHT" TO POSITIONS ON SUBSIDIARY BODIES.

4. IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE IN OUR INTEREST, THEREFORE, IF THE WEO GROUP COULD AGREE ON A SLATE FOR THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS SO AS TO MINIMIZE THE DANGER, HOWEVER SMALL, THAT WE WOULD FAIL IN OUR BID TO BE RE-ELECTED. HOWEVER, WE SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF THIS HAPPENING. GIVEN THE FACT THAT TWO PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ARE IN THE FIELD (FRANCE AND THE U. S.), THIS LEAVES ONLY ONE SEAT AVAILABLE FOR THE REMAINING FIVE CANDIDATES. EACH OF THE REMAINING FIVE CANDIDATES HAVE FIRM INSTRUCTIONS AND VALID ARGUMENTS (AT LEAST FOR THEMSELVES) FOR SEEKING POSITIONS ON THE COMMISSION.

5. A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE IN THIS SITUATION IS THE "RIGHT" OF PERMANENT MEMBERS TO POSITIONS. THIS HAS BEEN RESPECTED BUT DOES NOT ENJOY WIDESPREAD SUPPORT WITHIN THE WEO GROUP. THUS, NON-PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ARE RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO ANY KIND OF FORMULA WHICH WOULD ALLOCATE THREE POSITIONS TO THE PERMANENT MEMBERS (FRANCE, THE UK, AND THE U. S.) AND LEAVE THEM TO FIGHT OVER THE REMAINDER. THE U. S. IS NOT THE TARGET OF THIS RESENTMENT. IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT GIVEN OUR IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE UN SYSTEM, WE SHOULD BE GIVEN POSITIONS ON SUBSIDIARY BODIES. RATHER, THE RESENTMENT IS DIRECTED TOWARDS FRANCE AND THE UK WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIONS IN UN FORA DO NOT IN THE EYES OF MANY MERIT SUCH PRIVILEGES.

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6. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER APPROACHING WEO CAPITALS TO LEAVE NO DOUBT OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CANDIDACY AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WEO EFFORTS TO AGREE ON A SLATE. IN THE LATTER CONTEXT, OUR MAJOR ARGUMENT WOULD BE IMPORTANCE IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE WEO GROUP, RATHER THAN ECOSOC AS A WHOLE, SHOULD DECIDE ON WEO REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMISSION. WE ARE AT A LOSS, HOWEVER, IN SUGGESTING THE WITHDRAWAL OF ANY SPECIFIC COUNTRY (INCLUDING FRANCE).

7. ALTHOUGH THERE IS ALWAYS THE DANGER THAT THE U. S. MAY FAIL TO BE ELECTED BY ECOSOC, WE DO NOT THINK THIS IS LIKELY IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS. AS SUGGESTED REFTEL B, WE NEVERTHELESS CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO SEEK SUPPORT BOTH AT CAPITALS AND HERE IN NEW YORK. FURTHER, OUR POSTURE AND ACTIONS DURING THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MAY IMPACT ON THE ATTITUDES OF ECOSOC MEMBER STATES.

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